

Congresswoman NYDIA M. VELAZQUEZ

Representing New York's 12th Congressional District
Ranking Democratic Member, House Small Business Committee



Congress Passes Corporate Accountability Bill Attacks fraud, imposes audit control, requires jail terms

In the most sweeping change to the nation's regulation of the marketplace since the 1930s, Congress toughened penalties for corporate wrongdoing.

Wracked by scandals that have led to the two largest bankruptcies in American history - Enron and WorldCom - in addition to concerns or charges about operations at Arthur Andersen, Adelphia, and AOL Time Warner, Wall Street markets have fallen, threatening the retirement of million of Americans.

Led by Democrats, Congress agreed to impose criminal penalties for fraud or signing off on misleading financial statements. The legislation passed creates a new regulatory body for accounting firms' auditing practices, similar to the Securities and Exchange Commission that monitors financial markets.

Under extreme pressure to bolster an uncertain economy, the President is expected to sign the bill into law.

CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY PROVISIONS

- Establishes new Public Auditing Regulatory Board
- Ensures that audits are independent
- Ends stock analysts' conflicts of interest
- Expands SEC resources
- Holds CEOs accountable for honest bookkeeping
- Bars wrongdoing officers and directors from moving company to company
- Prohibits corporations from making insider loans to their executives
- Requires timely reports when corporate insiders dump stock
- Bans CEOs from selling stock during 'blackouts'
- Requires real time disclosure of financial info
- Criminal penalties for securities fraud
- Criminal penalties for altering, destroying, or failing to maintain documents
- Gives shareholders adequate time to pursue securities fraud
- Protects whistleblowers
- Compensates victims of securities fraud

Velázquez Awarded for Kid-Friendly Voting Record Children's Defense Fund Gives 100 percent rating



Congresswoman Velázquez visited a girls club on the Lower East Side earlier this year.

The Children's Defense Fund Action Council ranked Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez among the top House lawmakers on children's issues in 2001, awarding a perfect 100 percent score for her pro-kids voting record. The annual Defense Fund Scorecard has ranked lawmakers according to their vote on 10 crucial bills in Congress for the past three years.

"I am honored to be selected among this group of lawmakers who fight every day for America's children," Congresswoman Velázquez said. "How we take care of the most vulnerable among us and prepare them for the future says a lot about our nation. I am proud of my record in standing up for children in New York."

One of the 10 measures used by the Defense Fund to evaluate lawmakers included Congresswoman Velázquez's own amendment to a spending bill to fund the YouthBuild program with \$10 million.

Rebuild Chinatown Initiative Gains Momentum

New plan in place to help community affected by Sept. 11

Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez attended the unveiling of the Rebuild Chinatown Initiative, hosted last month by Asian Americans for Equality and home mortgage corporation Freddie Mac.

The Rebuild Chinatown Initiative will develop a strategic plan to determine how Chinatown can best recover from the aftermath of Sept. 11. The plan will assess the current state of the local economy and the needs of businesses while examining how Chinatown can attract customers and tourists again through promotion, transportation and quality of life.

“Chinatown has endured one of the most wrenching tragedies in our history,” Congresswoman Velázquez said. “That is why this initiative is so important. Working together, we can develop a comprehensive recovery plan that will bring Chinatown back better than ever.”



Congresswoman Velázquez spoke at the unveiling of the Rebuild Chinatown Initiative last month.

\$500,000 Secured for Betances Health Center

Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez recently secured \$500,000 to help the Betances Health Center, which was financially harmed by the events of September 11. Betances, located at 280 Henry St., has been providing health care services to 4,500 low-income individuals a year on the Lower East Side since 1970.

Due to its close proximity to Ground Zero, Betances was inaccessible to many of its patients.

The Center lacked phone, fax and E-mail service for two months. Combined, these circumstances have resulted in a operating deficit exceeding \$950,000.

To ameliorate this financial shortfall, Congresswoman Velázquez requested \$500,000 in a major spending bill, which was granted.

“This will help Betances provide the much-needed medical services to a community that needs them now more than ever,” Congresswoman Velázquez said.

Amendments Help Housing Residents, Homeowners

Velázquez wins provision to provide jobs and buyer assistance

Public housing amendments authored by Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez were passed by an important House panel last month to promote promote minority homeownership and provide employment opportunities for public housing residents.

A growing crisis in New York City and across the country is predatory lending – when lenders charge

very high interest rates and fees, or impose unrealistic terms. Congresswoman Velázquez’s amendment would make sure families looking to buy a home get the education they need.

Congresswoman Velázquez’s other proposal would increase work opportunities for public housing residents by ensuring that they have a chance to get work on construction projects in their own communities.

Grants Awarded to Our Community

Charles B. Wang Community Health Center....\$306,667 To expand primary health care services	Montefiore Medical Center.....\$246,195 To expand primary health care services
Everyone Wins Foundation.....\$1,000,000 To promote children’s literacy	University Settlement Society.....\$356,157 To help students complete their education
New York University Graduate School.....\$591,710 To fund nurse education programs	INTERSYSTEMS.....\$100,000 To support cancer research projects
Gouverneur HealthCare Services.....\$200,000 To support maternal and child health	New York City Health & Hospital.....\$200,000 To support maternal and child health
Shuang Wen School.....\$174,940 To support bilingual education programs	Mesivtha Tifereth Jerusalem of America..\$17,572 To fund “E-rate” Internet connections